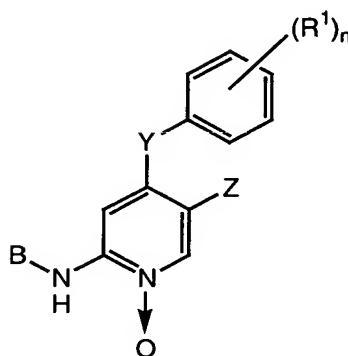


**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to 2,4-disubstituted pyridine-N-oxide compounds of formula (I):

5



(I)

or stereoisomeric forms, stereoisomeric mixtures, or  
pharmaceutically acceptable salt forms thereof, which are  
10 useful as inhibitors of HIV reverse transcriptase, and to  
pharmaceutical compositions and diagnostic kits  
comprising the same, and methods of using the same for  
treating viral infection or as an assay standard or  
reagent.

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